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TAGS: [AORC](#) [IAEA](#) [KN](#) [KNNP](#)

SUBJECT: IAEA/DPRK/BOARD OF GOVERNORS: BROAD CONDEMNATION
OF NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR TEST

Classified By: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES GEOFFREY PYATT FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND
(D)

Summary

¶1. (SBU) The IAEA June Board of Governors registered universal condemnation and deep concern regarding the DPRK's nuclear test. Fourteen statements (representing 22 of 35 Board members) were delivered under the Agenda item on the Application of Safeguards in the DPRK: Six party partners, the EU, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Argentina, Uruguay, Switzerland, Cuba, and South Africa and the Republic of Korea and Indonesia under Rule 50. Speaking first on the issue, China strongly supported UNSCR 1874 as demonstrating firm opposition to the DPRK's actions while supporting a diplomatic solution. At the same time, Russia and China cautioned against actions that might aggravate the situation. All interventions expressed strong support for the Six Party framework and urged North Korea to return to dialogue and to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards. Russia and South Africa also called on North Korea to adhere to the CTBT while the Philippines urged North Korea to refrain from any further nuclear tests.

¶2. (SBU) Director General ElBaradei set the tone in his introductory remarks to the June Board expressing great concern and deep regret that this test comes at a time when the prospects for progress on nuclear disarmament are "far better than they have been at any time in the recent past." The Philippines seconded the DG's remarks about disarmament, and Cuba took the opportunity to highlight the lack of progress on disarmament by nuclear weapons states. The DG indicated he will not be in a position to report on North Korea at the next Board meeting given the likelihood that the IAEA will not have had additional access. End Summary.

DG: Nuclear Test is a Wrong Step
In the Wrong Direction

¶3. (SBU) In his introductory remarks, the Director General recalled that the IAEA had been asked to leave North Korea on April 16. North Korea required the IAEA remove all containment and surveillance equipment and ceased all cooperation with the IAEA. The DG expressed his great concern at the news of a second nuclear test. The DG further regretted that the test came at a time when the prospects for progress on nuclear disarmament are "far better than they

have been at any time in the recent past." "This is a wrong step in the wrong direction," the DG said about the test, which he said created an environment of confrontation. The DG called on all parties to continue to work for a comprehensive solution through diplomatic means that would bring the DPRK back to the NPT and address its security concerns, humanitarian needs, and other political and economic requirements.

¶4. (SBU) At the end of the Iran Agenda item, the Director General again took the floor and made a few remarks on the DPRK, indicating that he will not be in a position to report on the situation in the DPRK at the next Board meeting due to the lack of IAEA access, and that any updates would have to come from Member States involved in dialogue with DPRK. We will consult with the Secretariat prior to the September Board meeting, but expect North Korea may be dropped from the agenda. Privately, Japan took exception to the DG's remarks on DPRK at the conclusion of the Iran item in which he supported forward-looking dialogue, inferring that we should not look backward as to who broke what commitment in the past.

Six Parties Call on DPRK to Return
To Dialogue

¶5. (SBU) Six Party members represented on the Board (China, Russia, Japan, and the U.S.) and South Korea (under Rule 50), called on DPRK to honor its commitments and return to the Six Party Talks. The Six Parties strongly supported UNSCR 1874, with China noting that it demonstrates firm opposition to

North Korea's actions and support for a diplomatic solution to the DPRK nuclear issue. Russia called on the DPRK to "react correctly" to the resolution by shelving its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. Russia further called on DPRK to return to the NPT and to IAEA safeguards, as well as to comply with the CTBT. Japan condemned "in the strongest terms" the nuclear test, calling it a grave threat to Japan's security and to peace in Northeast Asia, and urged North Korea to take seriously UNSCR 1874. South Korea welcomed UNSCR 1874 and condemned North Korea's actions in the "strongest terms."

¶6. (SBU) China's statement was tough at the outset, registering firm opposition to North Korea's actions in disregard of the international community. China and Japan stated that North Korea impaired the effectiveness of the nonproliferation regime and violated UN Security Council resolutions. Russia seconded this, describing the nuclear test as a "serious blow" to international efforts to strengthen the nonproliferation regime. Reverting to form, China called on Member States to remain calm and take no action to aggravate the situation in a way that would not serve common interests. China also noted that DPRK's sovereignty must be respected. Russia also hoped that all relevant parties would refrain from any action that would further exacerbate the situation.

¶7. (SBU) The Six Parties present expressed support for the IAEA's efforts in monitoring the shutdown and verification work at Yongbyon. Japan, South Korea, and the U.S. hoped that the IAEA would play an important role in verification in North Korea. Russia recalled the important role the IAEA had played up to this point.

¶8. (SBU) Japan joined the U.S. in regretting the DPRK's announcement that it will start reprocessing the spent fuel, weaponize plutonium, and commence uranium enrichment.

Broad Condemnation of Nuclear Test

¶9. (SBU) In addition to the Six Parties, there was broad condemnation of the nuclear test, including on the part of the EU, Argentina, New Zealand (calling it a provocative and

destabilizing act), the Philippines, Australia, Uruguay, Switzerland, South Africa, and Indonesia under Rule 50. Canada condemned the nuclear test as an "irresponsible and provocative gesture" that damages the nonproliferation regime. The Philippines, seconded by Switzerland, noted that the test adversely affected "the positive momentum achieved in the field of disarmament." The Philippines also urged North Korea to not conduct any more nuclear tests. South Africa called on North Korea to comply with the CTBT. Under its Iran statement, Mexico also expressed condemnation for DPRK's nuclear test.

Welcoming UNSCR 1874

¶10. (SBU) Canada, the EU, Argentina, Australia, Switzerland, South Africa, and Uruguay also welcomed UNSCR 1874, with Canada and Australia calling it a "firm and unified response."

Reaffirmed Support for Six Party Talks

¶11. (SBU) Canada, New Zealand, the Philippines, Australia, Switzerland, and Indonesia under Rule 50 urged North Korea to shut down its nuclear facilities and resume cooperation with the IAEA. There was universal support for the Six Party Talks and for resuming dialogue for a peaceful resolution. Canada called on North Korea to live up to its obligations as outlined in the 2005 Six Party Talks Joint Statement and the October 2007 Second Phase Actions. Cuba also hoped for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Cuba Highlights Need for Total Disarmament

¶12. (SBU) Cuba took the opportunity to call for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons, highlighting the lack of progress by nuclear weapons states to this end. Cuba appealed to NWS to fulfill their obligations under Article VI of the NPT, recalling the 1995 and 2000 NPT Revcons calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

U.S. Statement on North Korea

¶13. (SBU) Begin text of the U.S. statement on DPRK as delivered at the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting:

Madam Chairwoman,

Since the last IAEA Board of Governors Meeting in early March, North Korea has undertaken a number of provocative actions that have threatened international peace and security, undermined the international non-proliferation regime, and only deepened North Korea's isolation from the international community. North Korea's April 5 test of a Taepodong-2 missile and its May 25 nuclear test were serious and unacceptable acts that violated UN Security Council Resolution 1718. Furthermore, the United States condemns the DPRK's decision to expel IAEA monitors and U.S. observers from its Yongbyon nuclear facility in mid-April.

In response to these provocative acts, on June 12, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1874, which sent a clear message that North Korea's continuing provocative behavior is unacceptable, that its violation of a binding UN Security Council resolution has serious consequences, and that the international community is determined to deliver a strong and unified response. UNSCR 1874 demands that North Korea not conduct any additional nuclear tests or launches using ballistic missile technology.

It also requires the DPRK to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and to act in accordance with the obligations of parties to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards

Agreements, and calls upon North Korea return to the Six-Party Talks without preconditions. The new measures under this resolution include a total ban on arms exports and a major expansion of the ban on arms imports, new financial measures designed to limit the ability of the DPRK to fund WMD and ballistic-missile related activities, and enhanced inspection provisions for suspected transfers of proscribed cargo.

The United States calls on North Korea to return without conditions to a process of peaceful dialogue and to honor its previous commitments to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula as required by the new resolution.

On June 13, the North Korean Foreign Ministry responded to the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1874 by announcing that plutonium extracted from the spent fuel reportedly being reprocessed at the Yongbyon nuclear facility would be weaponized. Such actions would violate the clear decision in UNSCR 1874 that the DPRK shall "abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and immediately cease all related activities." It would also violate the decision that the DPRK shall act strictly in accordance with the obligations applicable to NPT parties and the terms and conditions of its IAEA Safeguards Agreement and the decision that it shall provide to the IAEA transparency measures extending beyond these requirements. The statement also announced that North Korea would begin "uranium enrichment work" to generate nuclear fuel for a light water reactor that it would build itself, an action that would further violate UNSCR 1874.

As a result of North Korea's actions, the international community has reached an important moment for the security of Northeast Asia. In the interest of international peace and security, and the global nonproliferation regime, we hope that North Korea will choose the path of diplomacy rather than confrontation. The United States remains open to dialogue but has also made it clear that North Korea will not find international acceptance unless it abandons its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The United States is consulting with our allies and partners

in Asia, especially those who have worked in recent years through the Six-Party Talks to ensure a denuclearized North Korea. President Obama and Secretary Clinton have been working closely with leaders in China, Russia, Japan, and South Korea, and on the United Nations Security Council to emphasize the importance of the international community conveying a strong, unified response to Pyongyang.

We continue to feel strongly that the IAEA should play an important role in the DPRK's denuclearization, including in verification and dismantlement activities. We believe such a role for the Agency is in the best interest of all parties, including the DPRK.

We remain committed to the September 2005 Joint Statement from the Six-Party Talks, the core goal of which is the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through peaceful means. We believe it is in North Korea's own best interests to return to serious negotiations to pursue this goal. The United States position remains unchanged: we will not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapons state.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.
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